

## REMARKS

Claims 1-35 is pending in the present patent application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). The objection to the drawings by the Examiner has been addressed by amending Figure 3. A typographical error denoting “10” has been changed to denote “200”. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendment to the Drawings. The amendment merely corrects a typographical error in Figure 3. Therefore, in light of the amendment to the drawings, Applicant respectfully asserts that the drawings comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) and thus, the corrected drawing sheets are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the drawings are now in compliance with the Patent Rules and Laws. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the drawings. Also attached is a corrected filing of formal drawings.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,684 (*Oskouy*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Oskouy* does not anticipate or suggest all the claims of the present invention. In fact, implementation of the present invention overcomes the various problems that could result from the implementation and the teachings of *Oskouy*. The communications system called for by claim 1 of the present invention provides for a handshaking unit to provide for data transfer between a first device and a second device. In contrast, *Oskouy* discloses an asynchronous transfer protocol (ATM) for transfer of data. More specifically, *Oskouy* discloses a communication between various computers in a network through

dynamically allocated channels and multiple bandwidth groups. *See*, column 3, lines 54-61. *Oskouy* specifically discloses that multiple packets of data subscribed to different channels accessed over the system IO Bus to the external buffer memory 42. *See* column 3, lines 54-66. *Oskouy* discloses that external memory interfaces 34 are segmented into cells for transmission to an ATM cell interface 40 thru an interface block. *See* column 3, line 66 - column 4, line 2. *Oskouy* discloses transfer of data between devices through typical ATM transfers including, which includes using buffers. The advantages provided by the present invention is addressed or disclosed by *Oskouy*. For at least these reasons, *Oskouy* does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1 of the present invention, which provides for a hand-shaking unit to allow for data transfer between a first and second device.

*Oskouy* discloses the ability of various computers to allocate channels and multiple bandwidth groups for communication over a system IO bus 38. However, the disclosure of *Oskouy* still includes the various problems that have been addressed by the present invention. For example, in the background section of the present disclosure, it is stated that one limitation of the multiple physical devices arrangements is that there is no capability to allow direct communication between physical devices on the same bus. *See* page 3, lines 19-20 of the Specification. One of the advantages provided by the embodiments of the present invention include the ability to connect multiple physical devices to a common bus without the need for extensive and complex ATM Master, which includes providing for data transfers without necessarily using buffers and other protocols, such as the ATM cell interface and the external buffer memory 42 of *Oskouy*. Although these advantages are present, it is anticipated that those skilled in the art would implement embodiments of the present invention with or without various

buffers. Hence, *Oskouy* clearly does not anticipate the advantages or the limitations of elements of claims 1 and 13.

The assertion by the Examiner that the handshaking unit is anticipated by *Oskouy* is incorrect, particularly in light of the Examiner's citation of *Oskouy's* use of an external buffer memory 42 to transmit data between transmit cells to the ATM cell interface 40 through the cell interface block 31. *See* column 3, lines 56- column 4, line 4. This discloses the disadvantages that the present disclosure has indicated as having been overcome. One of the advantages provided by the claimed invention includes the possibility of the handshaking unit to provide for communication directly (although not necessarily limited as such) between a first and a second device. *Oskouy* calls for implementing the normal ATM data transfer protocol, which does not anticipate the advantages and/or the limitations of claim 1 of the present invention. For example the ATM data transfer disclosed by *Oskouy* calls for the use of a buffer when transferring data between the devices. *Oskouy* clearly does not anticipate or provide the advantage of direct transfer between physical devices without the expense and overhead utilizing the normal ATM protocol, which is the subject matter of the disclosure in *Oskouy*. *Oskouy* clearly does not disclose the handshaking unit that is coupled to control lines of the BUS, which is connected to a first and a second device, and providing for completing data transfer by enabling the first and the second devices to facilitate the data transfer.

Generally, the ATM protocol of *Oskouy*, which includes the external buffer memory 42, the ATM cell transfer interface 40, etc., contains various disadvantages described in the specification of the present invention. The present invention may allow for avoiding various typical ATM protocol data transfer requirements by providing for handshaking between a first

and second device to allow for data communications, which is not anticipated by *Oskouy*. *Oskouy* expressly calls for the use of an external buffer 42, a buffer interface 34, etc. *Oskouy* does not disclose the handshaking unit for providing for data transfer between the first and second devices, as called for by claims 1 and 13 of the present invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 of the present invention is not taught, disclosed as suggested by *Oskouy*. Furthermore, claim 13, which calls for a communications system that includes a BUS being connected to a first and a second device, as well as a handshaking unit coupled to the BUS to facilitate a data transfer between the first and second devices, is also not anticipated by *Oskouy* for at least the reasons cited above. Additionally, claim 25, which calls for determining if the first and second devices are capable of completing a data transfer, providing handshaking signals to enable the first and second devices, and transferring the data in response to the handshaking signals, is also not anticipated by *Oskouy* for at least the reasons cited above. Therefore, independent claims 1, 13, and 25 of the present invention are allowable for at least the reasons provided herein.

Independent claim 1, 13, and 25 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above. Dependent claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-35, which depend from independent claims 1, 13, and 25, respectively are also now considered to be patentable in light of the above-presented arguments.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In addition, in light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-35 are allowable. In light of the arguments presented above, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the **Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney** at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4069 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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### **IN THE DRAWINGS**

The drawings have been objected to by the Examiner. Correction relating to a typographical error has been made in Figure 3. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendment to the drawing. A submission of Formal Drawings is being concurrently filed with this Response to Office Action.